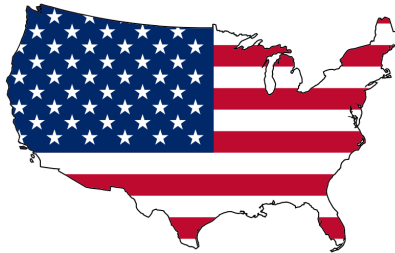


United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



Global articles for your interest
Issue 4
February 17 - March 3, 2010

Contents:

1. United States Helping Countries Counter Illegal Drugs

The United States is committing resources to help governments fight the illegal drug trade, which threatens international security. But without more progress in reducing U.S. domestic demand, gains made will be under severe pressure, according to a new international drug control strategy report. ...

2. Obama Sends Trade Policy Agenda to Congress

President Obama's 2010 Trade Policy Agenda pledges the United States will build on existing trade agreements to strengthen the rules-based global trading system and uphold American commitments around the world. The president set a goal of doubling U.S. exports in the next five years. ...

3. Presidential Proclamation on Women's History Month

The White House releases a proclamation by President Barack Obama on Women's History Month 2010. ...

4. Secretary of State Clinton Encourages New NATO Strategy

Secretary of State Clinton says NATO is strongest when it is united by common purposes and principles. "Today we confront challenges that have parallels to the problems that faced the alliance at its inception," Clinton tells a seminar aimed at crafting a new strategic concept for the alliance. ...

5. Secretary Clinton's Remarks at Black History Month Celebration

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton makes remarks at the Black History Month celebration at the State Department. ...

6. In Educating Girls, Oprah Winfrey Works "to Get It Right"


Tens of millions of dollars and a big heart were not enough for celebrity Oprah Winfrey to successfully create a school in South Africa. In an interview with America.gov, she speaks of stepping back from "the emotionalism of philanthropy" to tackle several practical problems at once. ...

In case you missed it:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#) 



*Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.
 **video** message.*

International Women's Day

Secretary of State's Video Message

March 8, 2010

Secretary Clinton: "March 8th is International Women's Day—a day to reflect on the progress the world has made in advancing women's rights and to recognize what work remains to be done. This year marks an anniversary very close to my heart. Fifteen years ago, along with women and men from around the world I attended the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The message from that conference rang loudly and clearly, and still echoes across cultures and continents: Human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights."...[full text](#).

- ◇ **To see the Secretary Clinton's International Women's Day Video Message, please [click here](#).**
- ◇ **Op-Ed: International Women's Day**



*A family affair - father and son musicians
from Mariachi Imperial de America. (LP)*

Ole! Mariachi Comes To Macedonia

March 17 - 19, 2010

[Mariachi Imperial de America](#), a nine-member ensemble from Texas, will bring a new cultural experience to Macedonia. The Hispanic community in the United States, as the largest single minority, has become ingrained in the fabric of our nation and the popularity of this type of music has spread from coast to coast. Free concerts in public squares are scheduled for March 17 in Struga, March 18 in Stip and March 19 in Cair and Skopje. The band promises lots of fun – singing and dancing with the audience and performing with local musicians. We hope you can join us for their visit.

- ◇ **To learn more about this ensemble from Texas, please [click here](#).**
- ◇ **To see some video clips from their repertoire, please [click here](#).**



Ambassador Reeker welcomes the guests at the official opening of the fourth American Corner in Macedonia "American Corner in Stip". (LP)

A New American Corner in Stip Brings American Culture to Eastern Macedonia

March 3, 2010

The United States Embassy inaugurated its fourth American Corner in Macedonia at the University of Goce Delcev in Stip. Ambassador Reeker was joined in opening remarks before a large assembly in the lobby of the Faculty of Pedagogy by Minister of Education Nikola Todorov as well as Corner partners Atanas Kocov from the Macedonian American Alumni Association and Rector Sasa Mitrev of UGD. The Ambassador encouraged students to take advantage of study programs to the United States like the Fulbright Student program, noting that the Government of Macedonia has committed \$100,000 annually to increase the number of study opportunities for students from Macedonia. The Ambassador stressed that future academic success depends on individual commitment and that opportunity is built on a strong education as a foundation.



Deputy Chief of Mission Tom Navratil listens as Ambassador Paulsen speaks about the current state of political debate in Macedonia. (LP)

Discussing Political Culture and Dialogue

March 2, 2010

Deputy Chief of Mission Tom Navratil joined representatives of the Macedonian Government and the international community at an event arranged by the nongovernmental organization CIVIL to discuss the current state of political discourse in Macedonia. He stressed that dialogue and discussion were critical to any democracy and that this flow of communication must take place at all levels, not just among political leaders and pundits.

♦ To see a copy of his remarks, please [click here](#).



Political Officer Jennifer Bosworth sitting next to SEE University Rector, Alajdin Abazi, at the IDD Conference on "Values of Inter-Religious Tolerance". (LP)

Using Democracy Commission Grants to Promote Dialogue

March 1, 2010

The Institute for Democracy and Development (IDD), organized a forum yesterday at the SouthEast European University on the theme of inter-religious tolerance. This forum was one of many arranged through the project to promote dialogue among political groups in the country and it has been very successful in bringing a wide range of political parties, religious entities, as well as representatives of the local governance and the civil society together to debate important issues facing Macedonia. The Embassy's human rights and religious freedom officer Jen Bosworth spoke on themes of inter-religious dialogue and understanding, highlighted the need for registration provisions of the 2007 Law on the Status of Religious Groups and Communities to be fully implemented, and talked about creating an environment where understanding and tolerance can thrive.

♦ To see photos from this event, please [click here](#).

♦ To see local media coverage (Alsat TV video footage - WMV file, size 3.68 MB), please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker talks to Nova Makedonija. (PC: Robert Atanasovski, Nova Makedonija)

Discussing the Way Forward with Nova Makedonija

February 23, 2010

Ambassador Reeker spoke with Nova Makedonija about the current situation in the country and some of the challenges that Macedonia is facing. The interview touched on the negotiations with Greece and the teaching of Macedonian language in schools.

♦ To see a transcript of the speech, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker talks to TV Art reporter.

Talking About Tetovo and the Polog Region

February 20, 2010

TV ART sat down with Ambassador Reeker to discuss interethnic relations and the Embassy's contact with political leaders. The interview took place in the Tetovo American Corner when Ambassador Reeker visited the city on February 20.

♦ To see a transcript of the interview, please [click here](#).

♦ To see some video excerpts (WMV file -size 12.9 MB) from the Interview, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker praises the GE healthcare partnership as Minister Osmani looks on. (LP)

Praising Transparent Public Procurement

February 22, 2010

Ambassador Reeker joined Prime Minister Gruevski and Health Minister Osmani in a public ceremony announcing the purchase of important medical equipment for Macedonia. This included state of the art technology from American companies packaged together with advanced equipment from other countries. The Ambassador stressed that the investment in this equipment represented an important step forward in transparent tenders. He also highlighted that this purchase was a good use of the Macedonian government's resources since it would help improve the health of the county's citizens.

- ◇ To see his remarks, please [click here](#).
- ◇ To hear the Ambassador's remarks (mpg3 file - size 5.16 MB) [click here](#).
- ◇ To view the video footage from MTV1 newscast in Macedonian (WMV file – size 6.21 MB) please, [click here](#).
- ◇ To view the video footage from MTV2 newscast in Albanian (WMV file – size 5.96 MB) please, [click here](#).



Mayor Bexheti of Tetovo and Mayor Pajaziti of Bervenica join Ambassador Reeker in congratulating the youth participants in the LOJA soccer camp. (LP)

Strengthening Interethnic Relations, The Business Community and Local Governance

February 20, 2010

Ambassador Reeker visited Tetovo and Zhelino on February 20 to take part in the closing of an interethnic soccer league supported by the Embassy and organized by the NGO Loja. Youth from Tetovo and surrounding villages came together for 12 weeks to learn soccer skills and share an activity they enjoy. The Ambassador also took time to meet with Mayor Bexheti and learn about progress in Tetovo. Finally he visited the "Vezë Sharri" egg farm where he toured the facility and observed how US sponsored training is helping Macedonia be more competitive in the global market.

- ◇ To see the Ambassador's remarks at the soccer event, please [click here](#).
- ◇ To see local coverage (A1 TV video footage - WMV file, size 3.51 MB) of the visit to the egg farm, please [click here](#).
- ◇ To see photos from the trip, please [click here](#).

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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